# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2565
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Development of Cruise Tourism
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government is considering to explore/exploit tourism potential in Lakshadweep;
(b) the total number of tourist, National and International, visited Lakshadweep in the last three years;
(c) whether the Government proposes to explore possibilities of marine cruise tourism, such a Star Cruise, etc. including routes Coachin, Maldives, Lakshadweep etc.; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism is implementing a number of schemes for development and promotion of tourism in various States/UTs including Lakshadweep.

Ministry of Tourism has launched a new plan scheme "Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Circuits around specific themes". Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, thirteen circuits namely North-East India, Buddhist, Himalayan, Coastal, Krishna, Desert, Tribal, Eco Tourism, Wildlife, Rural, Spiritual, Ramayana and Heritage Circuits have been identified. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for projects relating to these thematic circuits in the States/UT Administrations is provided by the Ministry of Tourism subject to availability of funds, adherence to Scheme guidelines and liquidation of pending utilization certificates.

(b): The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) in Lakshadweep during 2012-14 are as below:
<pre>
Year Domestic Tourist visit Foreign Tourist visit
2012 4417 580
2013 4784 371
2014 7315 514
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(c) & (d): The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has identified Cruise Tourism as one of the Niche Tourism products. Central Financial Assistance is provided by the MoT to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/Central Agencies for the development of tourism infrastructure including development of Cruise tourism under relevant Scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds. Ministry of Tourism has also constituted a Task Force for promotion of Cruise Tourism.

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